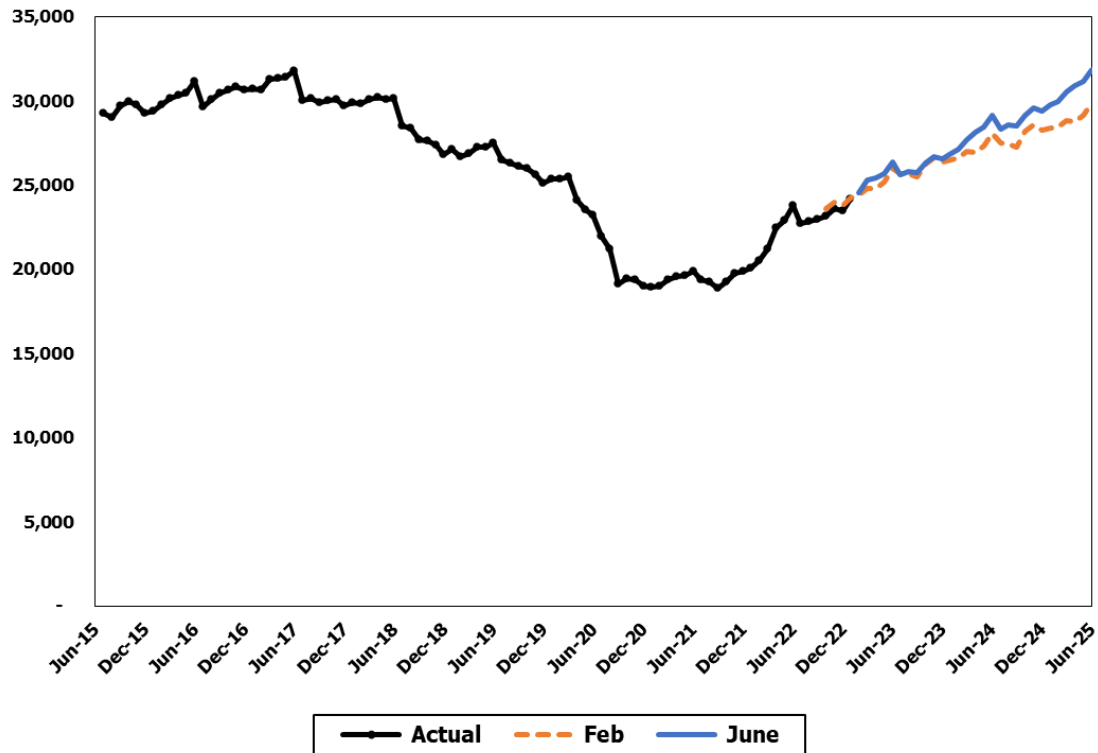


Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)

Caseload Forecast Council
June 14, 2023

Working Connections Child Care



The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) caseload is made up of households who are working (or were formerly working) with incomes of up to 60 percent of the state median income, as adjusted for family size, and recipients (or recent former recipients) of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Feb-23 Forecast	Jun-23 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023	24,079	24,166	87	0.4%
2024	26,520	26,983	463	1.7%
2025	28,368	29,783	1,416	5.0%

Compared to February, the June 2023 forecast is, on average, 87 cases or 0.4 percent higher for FY 2023 and 939 cases or 3.4 percent higher for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Forecast Contact:
Erik Sund
360-664-9374
erik.sund@cfc.wa.gov

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-23			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Oct-22	23,548	23,146	-402	-1.7%
Nov-22	23,980	23,572	-408	-1.7%
Dec-22	23,790	23,457	-333	-1.4%
Jan-23	24,207	24,166	-41	-0.2%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 296 cases or 1.2 percent below the February forecast.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

		Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual		2016	29,828		
		2017	30,767	939	3.1%
		2018	29,991	-776	-2.5%
		2019	27,412	-2,579	-8.6%
		2020	25,200	-2,213	-8.1%
		2021	19,699	-5,500	-21.8%
		2022	20,598	898	4.6%
Forecast		2023	24,166	3,569	17.3%
		2024	26,983	2,816	11.7%
		2025	29,783	2,801	10.4%

The June forecast for WCCC includes new step adjustments modeling the impact of 2SHB 1447 (Chapter 418, Laws of 2023), which removes certain limitations on eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and 2SSB 5225 (Chapter 222, Laws of 2023), which directly expands eligibility for WCCC. Both laws are expected to increase the number of households participating in WCCC. 2SSB 5225 provides higher income limits for child care employees using WCCC, prohibits the consideration of applicants' and children's immigration statuses when determining WCCC eligibility, and allows eligibility for families with children whose parent or guardian was a party or victim in a specialty or therapeutic court case within the last six months.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to the June 2023 forecast are moderate to high. The pandemic affected patterns of work, child care utilization, and the delivery of child care services, leading in turn to a substantial decline in the WCCC caseload. This forecast incorporates both an assumed continuation of the caseload recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and additional caseload growth resulting from changes to eligibility criteria and copayment costs in the program. The scale of growth in the caseload forecast is such that any divergence from the expected trend of recovery may produce significant variance.

Forecast Contact:
Erik Sund
360-664-9374
erik.sund@cfc.wa.gov